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World Factbook Travel Facts



WORLD
FACTBOOK

Saudi Arabia

US State Dept Travel Advisory

The US Department of State currently recommends US citizens **DO NOT TRAVEL** to Saudi Arabia due to COVID-19. Reconsider travel due to the threat of missile and drone attacks on civilian facilities. Exercise increased caution in Saudi Arabia due to terrorism. Consult its website via the link below for updates to travel advisories and statements on safety, security, local laws and special circumstances in this country.

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories.html>

Passport/Visa Requirements

US citizens should make sure their passport will not expire for at least 6 months after they enter the country even if they do not intend to stay that long. They should also make sure they have at least 1 blank page in their passport for any entry stamp and or visa that will be required. A visa is required. US citizens will need to get in touch with the country's embassy or nearest consulate to obtain a visa prior to visiting the country.

US Embassy/ Consulate

[966] (11) 488-3800; US Embassy in Riyadh, PO Box 94309, Riyadh 11693, Saudi Arabia

Vaccinations

An International Certificate of Vaccination for yellow fever is required for travelers arriving from countries with a risk of yellow fever transmission and for travelers having transited through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission. Vaccinations required for certain visa classes. See WHO recommendations.

<http://www.who.int>

Climate

Harsh, dry desert with great temperature extremes

Currency (Code)

Saudi riyals (SAR)

Electricity/Voltage/Plug Type(s)

220 V / 60 Hz / plug type(s): G



Major Languages

Arabic

Religions

Muslim (citizens are 85-90% Sunni and 10-15% Shia), other (includes Eastern Orthodox, Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Sikh); note: despite having a large expatriate community of various faiths (more than 30% of the population), most forms of public religious expression inconsistent with the government-sanctioned interpretation of Sunni Islam are restricted; non-Muslims are not allowed to have Saudi citizenship and non-Muslim places of worship are not

	permitted
Time Difference	UTC+3 (8 hours ahead of Washington, DC, during Standard Time)
Potable Water	Yes, but some opt for bottled water.
International Driving Permit	Suggested
Road Driving Side	Right
Tourist destinations	National Museum of Saudi Arabia; Jamaraat Bridge; Mada'in Salih; King's Fountain; Dumat al-Jandal; Al-Turaif District
Cultural Practices	Do not point at people, better to keep hands flattened and gesture instead.
Tipping Guidelines	Tipping 10-15% is expected for good service. Tip a porter/bellhop \$1-2 (USD) per bag and a housekeeper \$2 (USD) per day.
Telephone Code	966
Local Emergency Phone	Ambulance: 997; Fire: 998; Police: 999

Please visit the following links to find further information about your desired destination.

[World Health Organization \(WHO\) - To learn what vaccines and health precautions to take while visiting your destination. http://www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

[US State Dept Travel Information - Overall information about foreign travel for US citizens. https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel.html)

[To obtain an international driving permit \(IDP\). Only two organizations in the US issue IDPs: American Automobile Association \(AAA\) \(www.aaa.com\) and American Automobile Touring Alliance \(ATA\) \(www.aataidp.com\)](http://www.aaa.com)

US citizens may call the US Dept of State (+1-202-501-4444) for emergencies abroad.

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